

Agency's Advisory Board representing the National Guard Association of the United States.

Mr. President, I would, however, be remiss if I did not mention what I feel has been one of the most important aspects of the General's service to Louisiana: serving as the Director of the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness (LOEP). Throughout the years, Louisianas have become all too familiar with life-threatening dangers presented by mother nature at her worst. General Stroud has certainly taken the motto "be prepared" to heart by ensuring that Louisiana is capable of handling the impact of natural disasters with order and efficiency. Under his supervision, operations at LOEP have undergone state-of-the-art advances which have allowed personnel to provide immediate assistance to citizens affected by nature's fury.

Mr. President, many individuals have a calling to serve the public in a variety of ways. They make sacrifices to contribute their talents to the safety, security and well-being of others. These are the individuals whose commitment to excellence and selfless dedication are evident through their leadership and the challenges they choose to accept. On November 8, 1997, General Ansel Stroud will relinquish his present position as Adjutant General, a position he has dutifully held for over seventeen years of his fifty-three years of service to our country. Although he is leaving the realm of public service, the contributions he has made to the greater good of the State of Louisiana will continue to have affect for years to come. It is my most sincere wish that General Stroud and Jane, his wife, will reap all the best which life has to offer, May God bless and God speed.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, October 29, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,429,377,880,990.06 (Five trillion, four hundred twenty-nine billion, three hundred seventy-seven million, eight hundred eighty thousand, nine hundred ninety dollars and six cents).

One year ago, October 29, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,236,574,000,000 (Five trillion, two hundred thirty-six billion, five hundred seventy-four million).

Five years ago, October 29, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$4,067,523,000,000 (Four trillion, sixty-seven billion, five hundred twenty-three million).

Ten years ago, October 29, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,385,077,000,000 (Two trillion, three hundred eighty-five billion, seventy-seven million).

Fifteen years ago, October 29, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,142,825,000,000 (One trillion, one hundred forty-two billion, eight hundred twenty-five million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,286,552,880,990.06 (Four trillion, two

hundred eighty-six billion, five hundred fifty-two million, eight hundred eighty thousand, nine hundred ninety dollars and six cents) during the past 15 years.

MRS. LISA D'AMATO MURPHY, COMMUNITY LEADER OF THE YEAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today I was informed that Mrs. Lisa D'Amato Murphy, daughter of Senator D'AMATO, was chosen as "Community Leader of the Year" by the Island Park Kiwanis Club. Her significant volunteer participation in both civic and church activities is the basis for this distinguished award. It is important to mention that Lisa is the wife of Judge Jerry Murphy of the Island Park Village Court and the mother of five children. Yet, so strong is her commitment to others that she somehow finds the time to serve her community. While so many people bemoan the lack of hours in a day, Lisa clearly demonstrates that time for community service can be found—if it is a priority.

On behalf of the entire Senate family, I extend our sincere congratulations to Mrs. Lisa D'Amato Murphy, Island Park, New York's "Community Leader of the Year."

NOMINATION OF BILL LANN LEE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this has been an extraordinary week in Washington with the first State visit by the Chinese leadership since 1989. While President Jiang Zemin's visit has resulted in important agreements on economic, environmental and security issues between our two nations, it has not resulted in the hoped for progress on human rights issues in China.

Yesterday, I spoke about Ngawang Choephel, a Tibetan scholar and documentary filmmaker who was a Fulbright scholar at Middlebury College in Vermont. In 1995 he had gone to Tibet to document traditional Tibetan music and dance when he was detained by Chinese authorities and then sentenced to 18 years in prison for allegedly spying on behalf of the Dalai Lama. No evidence to support these claims has ever been produced, despite my persistent inquiries. Nor have the Chinese authorities provided any information about Mr. Choephel's whereabouts or health status over the past two years. I have raised these concerns with President Jiang directly, emphasizing to him that Mr. Choephel's release from prison would be a meaningful step in the right direction on human rights issues. Yesterday and today in meetings with the Chinese President, I raised this human rights issue, again.

The gulf between our two countries can most clearly be seen on the issue of human rights. This week demonstrates the distance between our two countries in another way as the Senate considers President Clinton's nomination of Bill Lann Lee to be the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Rights

Division at the U.S. Department of Justice. When confirmed, Bill Lee will be the principal law enforcement officer of the Federal Government to ensure the civil rights and equal treatment of all Americans. He will also be the first Asian-American to hold this post and exercise such authority.

A meaningful step the Senate should take without delay is to confirm Bill Lee, a Chinese-American whose life story and life's work are quintessentially American. At the same time we are urging the Chinese Government to improve their human rights' record, we should demonstrate through action and not just words our own commitment to human rights and civil rights by proceeding without further delay on this important nomination.

Mr. Lee was born in Harlem to Chinese immigrant parents. His parents ran a laundry in New York. He went on to graduate from Yale College magna cum laude and then Columbia Law School. He testified last week that his childhood experiences, which included hearing racial slurs directed at his parents and his father's inability to rent an apartment after returning from volunteering for military service in World War II, greatly influenced his decision to dedicate his life to civil rights work. Mr. Lee's efforts over the years have ensured Americans of all races and creeds opportunities to advance in their careers, remain in their homes and raise healthy children.

Since July, Senator KENNEDY and I repeatedly urged the committee to hold a hearing on Mr. Lee's nomination before the Columbus Day recess in order to give this important nomination an opportunity to be considered by the Senate this year. Unfortunately that hearing only took place last week. Chairman HATCH has consistently indicated his commitment to getting this nomination considered before adjournment.

At the hearing, Mr. Lee answered hours of questions. The Republican members of the committee and the majority leader also submitted pages of written questions to him, which have also been answered. All members of the committee have met or had the opportunity to meet with the nominee personally. Unfortunately there was no business meeting of the Judiciary Committee this week. I have asked the chairman to report this nomination to the Senate without delay and hope that he will do so.

Bill Lee is a nominee who has impressed everyone with whom he has met. He is a man of integrity who has practiced mainstream civil rights law for 23 years. He is a practical problem solver, as attested to in tributes from opposing counsel and people from both political parties.

Chairman HATCH has clearly indicated that he views Bill Lee as imminently qualified for the Assistant Attorney General position at Department of Justice. At Mr. Lee's nomination

hearing last Wednesday, Senator HATCH referred to Bill Lee's "long and distinguished career" and noted his "commitment to improving the lives of many Americans who have felt the sting of invidious discrimination." These comments are encouraging.

Senator HATCH has been stalwart in moving a number of top Justice Department nominees through the committee promptly. As examples, I point to the nomination of Eric Holder to be the Deputy Attorney General, Ray Fisher to be the Associate Attorney General, and Joel Klein to be the Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division.

In connection with the confirmation of Assistant Attorney General Klein, Senator HATCH said:

"I believe it is neither fair nor wise to hold a nominee hostage because of such concerns, especially one as competent and decent as Joel Klein. In my view, sound public policy is best served by bringing this nominee up for a vote, permitting the Justice Department to proceed with a confirmed chief of the Antitrust Division, and for us in Congress to move forward and work with the Department and other involved agencies in the formulation and implementation of telecommunications policies."

"There are times when I disagree with the President, but I have to say when he does a good job and when he does nominate good people . . . then I will support the President.

"I will do what I can to show support for him and to encourage him to continue to pick the highest quality people for these positions."

Adhering to that policy should lead us to a prompt and favorable vote on Mr. Lee.

At the recent nomination hearing of Ray Fisher, Senator HATCH assured the administration that "nominees for the Department of Justice will continue to receive thorough and prompt consideration by the committee." I am hopeful that Senator HATCH will apply this same standard to Mr. Lee's nomination.

I look forward to the vote on Bill Lee, a stellar nominee to head the Office of Civil Rights at Department of Justice. Mr. Lee's recent decision to recuse himself from any involvement in the Proposition 209 case further reflects his integrity and forthrightness on these sorts of matters.

Bill Lee's story is a true American saga. Raised by immigrants, in one generation he has risen to the top of his profession and is now being considered to head the Nation's civil rights division. Let us make sure the story ends the way it should—with the confirmation of Mr. Lee as Assistant Attorney General before we adjourn this session.

SUPPORTING NANCY-ANN MIN DEPARLE'S NOMINATION

Mr. KENNEDY. In June, the President nominated Nancy-Ann Min

DeParle to be Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA]. When confirmed as the Head of HCFA, Ms. DeParle will be responsible for running Medicare, Medicaid, and the new children's health program, and provide valuable direction for other important health insurance initiatives. More than 70 million Americans—senior citizens, children, persons with disabilities and others—depend on these programs for lifesaving health care. Leaving this critically important agency without a leader during this challenging time is irresponsible and indefensible, and I urge the Senate to move quickly to confirm her nomination.

It is especially offensive that a Senator is holding this nomination hostage in order to extract a concession from the President on an HCFA-related issue. We all want things from HCFA, and those issues should be resolved as part of the legislative process, not by denying this important Federal agency the leadership it needs.

At this moment, a large number of Medicaid waivers are pending from States that want flexibility to go beyond the current rules. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of decisions must be made regarding implementation of the Medicare provisions in the Balanced Budget Act—including the establishment of important new preventive benefits. This historic legislation also included the largest health insurance expansion since the creation of Medicare and Medicaid. It provides health insurance to uninsured children in working families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to purchase private health insurance. We all worked hard for this program. All 50 States will be submitting their plans for this coverage in the coming months and HCFA needs to take action.

Ms. DeParle is extremely well-qualified to lead HCFA. She served from 1993 to 1997 as the Associate Director for Health and Personnel at the Office of Management and Budget. In this capacity, she guided the development and implementation of budget and policy matters for all Federal health programs, including Medicare and Medicaid. In addition to other accomplishments, she has extensive experience running a state-level cabinet agency. From 1987 to 1989, she administered a 6,000-employee agency as commissioner of human services in Tennessee.

No significant objection to her nomination was raised at the Finance Committee hearing in September. She was approved unanimously by the committee on September 11, and she has been waiting since that day for the full Senate to act. It is long past time for the Senate to act.

THE CENTER FOR ADVANCED SIMULATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise to engage the distinguished Chairman of the Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator SHELBY, in a colloquy.

Mr. SHELBY. I would be pleased to accommodate the Senator from New York.

Mr. D'AMATO. I thank the Senator. I first would like to commend my friend and colleague from Alabama for the fine leadership he has shown in crafting the fiscal year 1998 Transportation Appropriations bill. He has done a wonderful job in allocating scarce federal resources equitably for New York and the entire nation for highway, transit, rail and other infrastructure needs.

I ask my colleague if he is familiar with an intermodal transportation simulation and technology project on Long Island called the Center for Advanced Simulation and Technology (CAST)?

Mr. SHELBY. I am familiar with it. This project is being developed at the National Aviation and Transportation Center on Long Island and is anticipated to provide an intermodal transportation simulation training, education and planning asset for the entire nation. A total of \$19.5 million in federal funding over the next five years has been determined by officials at the National Aviation and Transportation Center as needed to help carry out this project. According to these same officials, this level of federal funding is expected to trigger at least \$5 million in private sector contributions and up to \$7.5 million in funding from New York State.

Mr. D'AMATO. As my friend knows, no specific appropriation was provided in the fiscal year 1998 conference agreement to allow CAST to go forward in this fiscal year. Therefore, I would like to work with the Chairman, the Long Island Congressional delegation and the Department of Transportation in an effort to find a source of funding to continue work on CAST in this fiscal year.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, the Senator from New York has my assurance that I will work with him to try and identify a source of funding that will allow the CAST effort to commence in fiscal year 1998.

Mr. D'AMATO. I thank my friend and colleague.

FTC "MADE IN USA" RULES

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, as my colleagues no doubt are aware, I joined with Senator HOLLINGS, to submit a concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 52) to reaffirm the Senate's support for the traditional, simple, and honest use of the "Made in U.S.A." label. That use was in accordance with the long-standing rule that articles so labelled be made "all or virtually all" in the United States. Over two hundred members have cosponsored a measure similar to the Hollings-Abraham resolution in the House of Representatives, introduced by Representatives BOB FRANKS of New Jersey and JOHN DINGELL of Michigan.

Senator HOLLINGS, Congressman FRANKS and Congressman DINGELL joined me in sending a letter to the